

Identifier Bicentennial memorial

Formerly unknown



Heritage Precinct Overlay None
Heritage Overlay(s) HO51

Address Beach St
PORT MELBOURNE

Category Monument

Constructed 1988

Designer Peter Christoff

Amendment [C 74](#)

Comment [Additions to text.](#)

Significance (Mapped as a Significant heritage property.)

The Bicentennial memorial on Beach Street, Port Melbourne, was designed by the architect, Peter Christoff and unveiled in 1988. It is historically and socially important. Its historical importance (Criterion A) is derived from the incorporation of two blocks presumed to have their origins in the Colonial Sugar Works (Port Melbourne sugar works) established in 1891. Its social importance (Criterion G) is derived from the value placed by the community on the story of Wilbraham Frederick Liardet, founder of Port Melbourne, and the capacity of the memorial to interpret his role in the area's history.

Primary Source

Andrew Ward, City of Port Phillip Heritage Review, 1998

Other Studies

Description

To commemorate the bicentenary of European settlement in Australia, the Government and local community groups jointly commissioned local architect, Peter Christoff, to design a memorial to the life, goals and achievements of Port Melbourne pioneer Wilbraham Liardet. Christoff's brief was to incorporate in the design two bluestone blocks from the gates of the Colonial Sugar Works that were understood to be the "oldest in Port Melbourne". The blocks are thought to have been part of the bluestone foundations of the old sugar works (later part of Harpers) that were demolished in the 1980's.

When talking about the design of the memorial, Christoff said that it is a "symbolism of growth. Liardet pushed in a variety of directions, but they all led to the same thing, the future development of Port Melbourne". The memorial was constructed in bluestone because of its "enduring, almost indestructible qualities". The contrast in texture and form between the old blocks at the base of the monument and the smooth new blocks thrusting up from them are symbolic also of the old, new and future Port Melbourne.

Construction of the monument was carried out to a detailed design by stonemasons Hendersons Marble and Granite of Sunshine. Provision was made for four plaques:

- "The Liardet Memorial. Wilbraham Frederick Liardet was acknowledged as the first European settler and Founder of Port Melbourne (Sandridge) arriving in 1839 with his family. The family camped at what was known as Liardet's Beach, later to become Sandridge, later still Port Melbourne. They began a ferry service with a couple of boats and waggons, ferrying people to and from ships in the Bay and collecting and delivering mail. Their interests also included the building of Liardet's Pier Hotel in Beach Street. Wilbraham specialised in painting water colours, was involved in numerous activities in the colony and supported the development of local government. Liardet died in New Zealand in 1878."

- "Australia 1788-1988. Dedicated to Wilbraham Frederick Evelyn Liardet 1799-1878. A pioneer of Port Melbourne. An Australian Bicentennial Project to commemorate the nation's Bicentenary in 1988."

- "Australia 1788-1988. An Australian Bicentennial Project with financial assistance from the Commonwealth Government and the City of Port Melbourne erected by the City of Port Melbourne, the Bicentennial Community Committee and the Historical Society."

- "Designed by Peter Christoff (architect) in association with the City of Port Melbourne, the Bicentennial Community Committee and the Historical Society."

History

A recent dressed bluestone memorial incorporating two early bluestone blocks with margins and sparrow picked faces. The elements consist of two aligned columns with massive caps, one mounted on a pyramidal base and as a consequence, higher than the other.

Condition: Sound.

Integrity: High.

Thematic Context

8.9 Commemorating significant events and people. 8.9.3. Remembering people.

Recommendations

A Ward, Port Phillip Heritage Review, 1998

recommended inclusions:

Schedule to the Heritage Overlay Table in the City of Port Phillip Planning Scheme

References

Peter Christoff, Peter Christoff Architecture - memorial designer.

Pat Grainger, Port Melbourne Historical and Preservation Society.

Memorial plaques.